Message Text

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INFO J/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 4416

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: PFOR,CT,SG, GB

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BOKASSA VISITS SENEGAL

REF:A. BANGUI 0385 B. DAKAR 1592 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY, CAR PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S FOUR-DAY VISIT TO SENEGAL WAS PRIMARILY CEREMONIAL, TOURISTIC, AND SENTIMENTAL. ON SUBSTANTIVE SIDE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ENDORSES "STRATEGY OF DIALOGUE" WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND CALLS FOR "SECURE GUARANTEED BORDERS" FOR EACH COUNTRY IN MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING TO PARTICIPANT IN ONE OF BILATERAL MEETINGS, CAR PRESIDENT MAY FEEL MORE URGENCY THAN SENEGALESE IN NEED FOR TRADE AND WITH SOUTH AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

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- 2. PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC JEAN BEDEL BOKASSA MADE OFFICIAL VISIT TO SENEGAL MAR 19-23. LARGE DEL ACCOMPANYING BOKASSA INCLUDED STATE MIN FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS POTOLOT.STATE MIN FOR EDUCATION PSIMHIS, AGRIC. MIN MANDJEKA, YOUTH/SPORTS MIN GAMPA, AND INFO DIRECTOR-GEN LIBLAKENZE. INCLUDED IN ITINERARY FOR CAR GUESTS WAS JOURNEY TO DAKAR-BANGO SCHOOL AT SAINT LOUIS WHERE BOKASSA UNDERWENT MILITARY TRAINING 30 YRS AGO. BOKASSA ALSO VISITED BUD-SENEGAL, A JOINT AMERICAN, DUTCH, GERMAN, AND SENEGALESE AGRICULTUREAL ENTERPRISE WHICH HE PRAISED WARMLY IN COMMENTS TO PRESS UPON DEPARTURE. PUBLICLY, EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO CEREMONIAL, TOURISTIC AND SEN5IMENTAL EVENTS. THERE WERE NO MAJOR ADDRESSES AND ONLY SIGNIFICANT POLICY STATEMENTS WERE CONTAINED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED MAR 22.
- 3. IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, TWO SIDES "SALUTED" US-SOVIET DETENTE AS "FACTOR FOR PEACE IN WORLD" BUT ADDED THAT ANY GENUINE PEACE MUST COME THROUGH ELIMINATION OF COLONIALISM, APARTHEID, IGNORANCE, AND POVERTY.ON MID EAST. TWO PARITES REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND SAID WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED SINCE 1967 IS PREREQUISITE FOR PEACE. AT SAME TIME, THEY AFFIRMED RIGHT OF EACH COUNTRY IN ME "TO LIVE INSIDE SECURE.GUARANTEED BORDERS". ON SOUTHEAST ASIA, PRESIDENTS "STIGMATIZED" CONTINUOUS VIOLATIONS OF JAN 1973 PARIS ACCORDS ON VIETNAM AND REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR "JUST STRUGGLE OF KHMER PEOPLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE UNDER ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP OF PRINCE SIHANOUK".DECOLONIZATION SECTION OF COMMUNIOUE CALLED FOR INDEPENDENCE OF SEYCHELLES ISLANDS AND SALUTED DEC "CONSULTATIONS" WHERE PRINCIPLE OF COMORES INDEPENDENCE WAS ADOPTED.
- 4. ON SOUTH AFRICA, TWO PRESIDENTS REITERATED SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA IN STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM, RACISM, AND APARTHEID "IN FRAMEWORK OF DIALOGUE STRATEGY, WHERE IT IS A QUESTION OF APPLYING COMPLEMENTARY DECLARATIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LUSAKA AND MAGODISCIO". THEY ALSO ENDORSED OCT 1974 RABAT DECISION TO REINFORCE ARABO-AFRICAN SOLIDARITY AND UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING 1975 ARABO-AFRICAN SUMMIT CONF. ENDORSEMENT ALSO WAS GIVEN TO RESULTS OF DAKAR CONF ON COMMODITIES, AS WELL AS TO REGIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH CEAO, UDEAC, AND OCAM.

6. BILATERAL TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WAS SIGNED, AND IT WAS DECIDED ALSO TO CONCLUDE AN "ESTABLISHMENT CONVENTION". JOINT COMMISSION WILL MEET EVENTUALLY TO WORK ON LATTER.

7. DURING PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO CAR
VISITOR AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, BOKASSA WAS OVERHEARD
TELLING VIETNAMESE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVT
AMBASSADOR THAT HE REMEMBERED HIS COUNTRY WARMLY AND WOULD
BE VISITING PZ AGAIN IN AUG. BOKASSA SAID HE WOULD
BE TAKING TWO MARTINES FOR A VISIT TO SAIGON. WHEN POLISH
AMBASSADOR WAS PRESENTED, BOKASSA SPOKE OF HIS ADMIRATION
FOR POLISH BRAVERY IN ATTEMPTING TO RE OVE SOVIET
DOMINATION AND SAID HE HAD SUFFERED WITH POLES "WHEN RUSSIANS
CRUSHED THEIR NATIONALIST UPRISING".

8. COMMENT: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM A SENEGALESE OFFICIAL WHO PARTICIPATED IN AT LEAST ONE MEETING BETWEEN TO PRESIDENTS, THEY THEY FUNDAMENTALLY AGREE ON QUESTION OF DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA, HOWEVER, THERE REPORTEDLY WERE SOME DIFFERENCES IN TWO PRESIDENT'S APPROACHES TO SUBJECT, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING TRADE, BOKASSA REPORTEDLY SAID HE FULLY SHARED SENGHOR'S ABHORRENCE OF APARTHEID BUT SAID CAR, AS LANDLOCKED COUNTRY WITH MORE PRESSING TRADE PROBLEMS, FELT IT MANDATORY TO TRADE DIRECTLY WITH SOUTH AFRICA. CAR IS SAID TO HAVE REQUESTED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND SENEGAL THEREFORE WILL PROVIDE PROFESSORS TO BOKASSA UNIVERSITY. ON PERSONAL LEVEL, BOKASSA AND SENGHOR MADE CUSTOMARY EFFUSIVE STATEMENTS OF BROTHERLY FRIENDSHIP. HOWEVER, SENGHOR APPARENTLY WAS SUBDUED AND ILL AT EASE IN PRESENCE OF BOKASSA, BOKASSA REPORTEDLY WAS AN ESPECIALLY DEMANDING GUEST WHOSE INSISTENCE UPON SPECIAL DETAILS OF PROTOCOL, FOOD, DRINK HOUSING AND CEREMONIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPARENTLY CAUSED SOME APPREHENSION AND CONERN TO HIS SENEGALESE HOSTS. HOWEVER, FROM ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES, GOS MADE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO ASSURE CAR PRESIDENT WARM WELCOME, AND VISIT MUST BE CONSIDERED A SUCCESS. END COMMENT.

AGGREY

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